



October, 2007

Dear Indiana State Fair Supporter;

The annual reorganization of your Indiana State Fair Board this month provides a perfect opportunity to bring our friends up to date on a few items of interest. The Board saw the retirement of 4 members. Longtime President Terry Hoffman and Board members Jim Cole and Don Myer completed their two term, 8 year, limit on the Board. Dr. Dave Petritz Director of Purdue Cooperative Extension also retired this summer.

Joining the Board are John Tarr from Orleans, Steve Simmerman from Battleground and the new Director of Extension, Dr. Charles Hibberd. The Governor will be making an additional appointment very shortly. The newly elected President is Mark Merkel from Geneva.

As the Board begins preparations for the **2008 Fair, August 6<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>**, the status of the **4-H Sale of Champions** seems to be the subject of some speculation in the Fair community. While it is true that the Indiana State Fair Board constantly reviews its' programming for adjustments and improvements, no proposal for changing the Sale has been presented to either the Board's Executive Council or the Board as a whole. None are anticipated in the near future.

The Board does struggle with the issue of exhibitors needing to return to their communities to seek buyers and the decrease of corporate support. The Buyers Club is an example of their continued effort to find mechanisms for supporters of the Sale to annually make a financial contribution. The Buyers Club allows supporters to participate annually even if they do not have a personal relationship with any of the 4-H exhibitors in the sale. Your continued support of the Buyers Club is appreciated.

We are also preparing for the **2009 Indiana State Fair, August 7<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Planning for the addition of 5 extra days in 2009 is proceeding at a rapid pace. The Board hopes to have a draft Fair schedule prepared for unveiling at the 2008 Indiana Association of Fair, Festivals and Events convention in early January. There are a couple of points we would like to make:

1. The intent of additional days is to include more 4-H exhibitors in the Fair. Our intent is that shows will not be asked to expand the number of days exhibitors are at the Fair. Those shows that were previously not a part of the full fair experience will now share it with those 4-H families that have enjoyed all of the Fair being up and running.
2. We are studying the question of whether the Fair should be in full operation the entire 17 days or take a day off the middle of each week giving exhibitors, concessionaires, and the midway an opportunity to refresh their space and regroup for the influx of visitors. The Board is also considering adjusting the hours of daily operations for the public. However, 24 hour access for livestock exhibitors will not be affected.
3. We will work with the County Fairs that have schedules that conflict with the State Fair start date. Exhibit Hall projects from these Fairs will not be asked to check in any earlier than the existing practice. Livestock departments will work with exhibitors to arrange late arrival and check in.

The Board would like for interested parties to continue to give us suggestions or ask questions about 2009 planning, any aspect of your Indiana State Fair or wish to participate in the Buyers Club. Please contact any Indiana State Fair Director or e-mail us at [2009plans@indianastatefair.com](mailto:2009plans@indianastatefair.com) .

Sincerely,

Indiana State Fair Board